

Non-Final Office Action:

As noted in a communication from the Examiner dated June 27, 2001, the finality of the March 22, 2001 Office Action has been withdrawn. As further noted in the communication from the Examiner, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 3, 2001 should be considered in the preparation of the forthcoming Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-14 and 16-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sato et al (U.S. '968, hereinafter "Sato") in view of Metroka et al (U.S. '645, hereinafter "Metroka"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Sato and Metroka fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. In particular, the combination fails to teach or suggest storing data defining a multiplicity of displayable pages and providing a mode response selected from a multiplicity of stored possible modes, at least some of which define selection for display of a further one of the pages which is adjacent to a previously selected page being currently displayed. This feature is

supported by, for example, Fig. 18 of the originally-filed application and its corresponding written description.

Neither Metroka or Sato teaches or suggests the above claimed feature. Accordingly, the combination of these two reference similarly fails to disclose this feature. Moreover, the proposed combination of using the apparatus disclosed by Metroka to provide Sato's input to a computer appears only to detract from Sato's attempt to use accelerometers. There is absolutely nothing in the respective disclosures of Sato and Metroka that would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine their teachings.

With respect to independent claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Metroka and Sato fails to teach or suggest, "wherein the processing means is responsive to detected movement data to determine a most likely orientation of the computer display means, the processing means causing the displayed information to be oriented accordingly."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-14 and 16-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato and Metroka be withdrawn.

Claims 30-45, 47-72 and 74-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taguchi et al (U.S. '397, hereinafter "Taguchi") in view of Sato. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 30 and its respective dependents require, inter alia, "wherein the casing includes angular shaping between a forward holding area adapted to rest in the user's fingers and rearward flattened area holding a display screen the shaping being such as to provide a natural viewing angle of the incorporated display screen

while the casing is held as a writing stylus.” Independent claim 32 and its respective dependents requires a housing incorporating a visible display screen.

The Office Action admits that Sato fails to disclose or suggest a display screen. (See page 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action.) The Office Action, however, alleges that Taguchi teaches “a portable computer being housed in a casing shaped to facilitate a user holding the computer as a writing stylus, a casing including an angular shaping being such as to provide a natural viewing angle of the incorporated display while the casing is held as a writing stylus (see figure 1).” (See page 5, section 5 of the Office Action.) Applicant respectfully disagrees that Taguchi discloses a visible display screen. Specifically, Taguchi discloses the following:

“When the writing device 1 shown in FIG. 7 is employed, the writer can reproduce the original characters, figures and the like to some degree by displaying or printing out the handwriting read out from the handwriting storing section 23. The original characters, figures and the like can be perfectly reproduced by supplying the handwriting read out from the handwriting storing section 23 to an apparatus 30 which is shown in FIG. 9.” (See col. 6, lines 55-63.)

As clearly illustrated in Fig. 9, a separate apparatus is used to display or print out the figures or characters. There is no display screen incorporated into the casing 1 of Taguchi. If the next Office Action maintains the above rejection over Taguchi and Sato, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action point out where (i.e., what col. and line number(s) and/or what Fig(s)) a portable computer having a housing that incorporates a display screen is disclosed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30-45, 47-72 and 74-76 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Taguchi and Sato and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 46 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sato in view of Andrews (U.S. '271). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 15 and 46 require providing signals indicative of a proximity of the computer display screen to a user's view, and increasing and decreasing the density of displayed information responsive to changes in the relative proximity. Similarly, claim 73 requires "changing the density of displayed information in response to the detected proximity of a user's viewpoint."

The Office Action admits that Sato fails to teach a "proximity detection means which provides signal indicative of the proximity of the computer." (See page 8, section 6 of the Office Action.) The Office Action alleges that Andrews teaches a proximity detector that detects whether or not a remote unit is within a proximity of the portable computer. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Even assuming arguendo that the above characteristic of Andrews is accurate, neither Sato nor Andrews discloses providing signals indicative of the proximity of the computer display to a user's view. Furthermore, there is no further disclosure of increasing or decreasing the density of displayed information in response to the changes in the relative proximity. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 15, 46 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato and Andrews be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 77-80 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Since claims 77-79 depend, at least indirectly, from independent claim 1 and claim 80 depends from claim 32, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims

are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and for the further limitations recited therein.

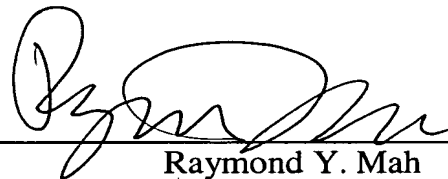
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Y. Mah', is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A portable computer comprising:

movement detection means responsive to movement of the computer to produce an electrical output signal representative of such movement, [and]

a storage medium for storing data defining a multiplicity of displayable pages each comprising of a plurality of lines;

a display having a corresponding plurality of lines to enable one of the multiplicity of pages to be displayed; and

processing means responsive to the output of said movement detection means to determine detected movement data defining a user's intention,

the processing means using said movement data to provide a mode response selected from a multiplicity of stored possible modes, at least some of which define selection for display of a further one of the pages from the multiplicity of pages, the further one of the pages being adjacent to a previously selected page being currently displayed.

5. (Thrice Amended) A portable computer as in claim 1, in which the processing means [includes] provides another mode which is a data input mode and detected movement data is used to generate alphanumeric or graphical data.

6. (Twice Amended) A portable computer as in claim 5, in which the generated alphanumeric or graphical data is stored in [a data store] the storage medium.

9. (Twice Amended) A portable computer as in claim [8] 1, wherein detected movement data is used to effect scrolling of displayed information such that portions of data defining alphanumeric or graphic information outside a currently displayed screen may be selected by the user, the scrolling of displayed information effectively displaying a part of an adjacent screen.

10. (Twice Amended) A portable computer as in claim [9] 1, in which a relative lateral tilting movement causes the display of information stored as to one or other side of currently displayed information.

11. (Thrice Amended) A portable computer as in claim [9] 1, in which relative rolling movement causes the display of information stored as above or below [the] currently displayed information.